

such insects as reside in the hearts of particular boughs, but for the most part in the bark of rotten wood.

The heron, who is just the reverse of the wood-pecker, is mounted a considerable height; his legs and thighs are very long, and scarcely a feather is to be seen upon them; his neck and back likewise are of an immoderate length. The reason is, that this bird subsists on frogs, little shell fish, or such other fish as he can find in those marshy grounds, which are situated near the banks of large rivers, or the sea-shore.

Thus you plainly see, that Providence has made every animal suitably to the manner in which it is to live; the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, and the beasts of the forest, all proclaim the wonderful works of God.

I hope, my dear Billy, after I have thus shewn you, with what labour, art, and ingenuity, these poor birds build
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their nests, you will not, when you grow up, take any delight in destroying them. The farmers frequently destroy birds, because they eat the corn off the ground as soon as it is sown; but this they do for their own interest, as an act of necessity, and not out of wantonness. The one is justly allowable, but the other is unpardonable.

Bird-nesting is almost as bad as robbing orchards:—when naughty boys rob an orchard, they run the chance of being caught, and then they are generally well beaten; but it is downright cowardice to rob a poor bird, who has it not in his power to revenge his own cause. To be sure, such boys are sometimes punished severely enough, as was Tommy Hare-brain, who, having clambered up a tree after a nest, got upon a weak bow, which broke with him, when he fell down and broke his leg.

Only consider, Master Billy, how any of these bird-nesting boys would like to
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